these facilities to meet the health care needs of their communities.

While the shortage has subsided in most parts of the country, shortages continue in many rural and inner city areas. Foreign educated nurses holding H–1A visas fill an important void which continues to exist in certain areas. Without their professional services, the quality of patient care would dramatically decrease. In addition, I have heard from many rural health care providers in North Carolina who informed me that, without the services of foreign nurses, they would be unable to meet Federal and State staffing requirements.

While a long-term solution to this particular nursing shortage problem has not been developed, a short-term solution is needed to address the existing realities in rural and inner city areas. The legislation which passed the Senate today is a carefully crafted short-term compromise. It affects only those H–1A nurses who are currently residing in the United States and extends their length of stay until September 30, 1997. Importantly, this legislation does not allow additional foreign nurses to enter the United States under the expired H–1A Visa Program, nor does it change any of the current requirements for an H–1B visa.

This legislation was introduced and passed by unanimous consent today. Thus, there was no committee action and no legislative history relating to the bill. As the author of the legislation, I wish to clarify section 1(b) governing ''Change of Employment.'' It is my intention that a change in an employer's ownership does not constitute a prohibited change of employment for a nonimmigrant affected by this act. For example, if an employer changes its name as a result of a merger or acquisition, I intend that the nonimmigrant be eligible to continue employment for the new owner. In such circumstances, it is my intention that this legislation permits the Immigration and Naturalization Service to process an I–129 petition to reflect this technical change. The same rules should apply to circumstances in which a nonimmigrant changes work locations with the same employer.

Finally, I wish to thank Senator SIMON for his assistance in passing this legislation. It has been a privilege to work with him to address a serious problem confronting both Illinois and North Carolina. In particular, I am glad to have had this opportunity to work with him one last time before he retires at the end of this Congress. I congratulate him on a distinguished career and wish him well in the future.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 74

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 74 submitted earlier by Senator BROWN correcting the enrollment of the FAA authorization conference report; further, I ask that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DASCHLE. Regrettably, Mr. President, I am compelled to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

RELIEF OF NGUYEN QUY AN

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to consideration of H.R. 1087, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1087) for the relief of Nguyen Quy An.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill appear at the appropriate point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1087) was deemed read a third time, and passed.

PRESIDENTIAL AND EXECUTIVE OFFICE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 636, H.R. 3452.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3452) to make certain laws applicable to the Executive Office of the President, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

THE WHITE HOUSE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, the Senate today will pass a bill to eliminate an unfortunate double standard that has remained in the application of our civil rights and labor laws.

James Madison wrote that an effective control against oppressive measures from the Federal Government on the people is that Government leaders ''can make no law which will not have its full operation on themselves and their friends, as well as the great mass of the society.''

Last year, this Congress—under Republican leadership—passed the Congressional Accountability Act, requiring the Congress to live under the laws it passes—and oftentimes imposes—on the rest of the Nation. The White House, however, has remained exempt from these laws. After prodding from this Congress, the White House now agrees that this double standard should no longer exist, and our negotiations this week have led to final passage of the White House Accountability Act.

For many years I supported the Congressional Accountability Act, and was glad to see this important legislation become law. For me, this was an issue of fundamental fairness. Congress should live under the laws it passes, and the White House should be no exception. H.R. 3452 will allow all lawmakers—on Capitol Hill and in the Office of the President—to learn firsthand which laws work, and perhaps more often than not, which laws are overly intrusive and burdensome.

I think America's labor leaders will agree with me when I say that employees of the White House should be protected by the same laws that the President approves for the rest of the country. Employees should have the same rights and protections regardless of where they work—whether the individual labors in the private sector, the Congress, and yes, even in the White House.

The White House Accountability Act applies to all workers at the White House except those appointed by the President with Senate confirmation, those appointed to advisory committees, and members of a uniformed service. This legislation requires the White House to enforce 11 civil rights and labor laws for its workers as a matter of law, not just a matter of policy. These standards include the Civil Rights Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, OSHA, and the Fair Labor Standards Act.

This is a bipartisan bill that passed the House of Representatives last week on a vote of 410–5. The White House asked for some modifications to the House legislation, and while I did not agree with all of their requests, we have reached an accommodation that will—for the first time in our history—give White House employees protection under the law. I also am encouraged that we were able to persuade the White House to accept a provision ensuring that White House employees will not lose their jobs if they take time off under the Family and Medical